Commercial Production of smokeless coal

696. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a smokeless type of coal called (CILCOKE) has been developed, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether commercial production and supply thereof has commenced, if so, where and what is the installed production capacity thereof; and

(c) what is the cost of production per tonne of this type of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) A low temperature carbonisation plant set up by Coal India Ltd. At Dankuni near Calcutta has already started commercial production of CILCOKE. This fuel is smokeless and is ideal for domestic use. The plant can process 7.13 lakh tonnes of non-coking coal from Raniganj coalfields annually for production of 4.35 lakh tonnes of semi coke (CILCOKE), 42,875 tonnes of various tar chemicals and other by products per year alongwith 18 million cubic feet of gas per day.

(c) The cost of production per tonne (average of last six months) of CILCOKE is around Rs. 3340/- per tonne based on present capacity utilisation of 20 to 25%. Production cost at full capacity utilization would be significantly lower.

Funds earmarked for coal gassification projects

697. SHRMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 391 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st December, 1992 and state the quantum of investment which Government propose to make within certain time frame on coal gassification project being initiated in collaboration with CSIR alongwith the break-up of funding details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): A 30 Megawatt (MW) capacity demonstration plant for generation of power through Integrated Gassification Combined Cycle (IGCC) system is proposed to be implemented with the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) as the nodal agency. The duration of the project is 5 years and the total cost of the project is estimated as Rs. 150 crores. An amount of Rs. 50 lakhs has been tentatively allocated for the project for the year 1993-94. Fund requirement for the subsequent years will be decided on the basis of resource availability.

Non-acceptance of raising coal prices by consumers

698. PROF. SAURIN BHATTA CHARYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent orders raising the coal prices have not been appreciated by the general consumers, trade circles and financial experts on the ground that it would increase the rate of inflation;

(b) whether the administrative action in the matter has caused a severe below on the economy which is yet to recover from various maladies; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The